

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A switching arrangement for switching an ATM cell having an ATM cell header, comprising:

5 a first circuit configured to receive said ATM cell;

a second circuit coupled to said first circuit, said second circuit creating a packet header having at least a portion of the information contained in said ATM header and to attach said packet header to said ATM cell, thereby forming an ATM cell-containing packet;

10 a packet switch device configured to switch packets among a plurality of ports, said packet switch being operatively coupled to said second circuit to receive said ATM cell-containing packet through a first port and to switch said ATM cell-containing packet to a second port as if said ATM-cell containing packet is a packet of the type normally switched by said packet switch device; and

15 a third circuit operatively coupled to said packet switch device for receiving said ATM-containing packet, said third circuit identifying said ATM-containing packet as a packet containing an ATM cell, said third circuit removing said packet header to recover said ATM cell.

2. The switching arrangement of claim 1 wherein said packet is an IP packet.

20 3. The switching arrangement of claim 1 wherein said packet switching device is part of a router.

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